

Aquatic habitat Guidelines Project

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This is an introduction to new on-line technical guidance (i.e. restoration tools) recently provided by a multi-agency team as a joint effort among state and federal resource management agencies in Washington. This team includes the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Ecology, Transportation, and Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. Development of guidance documents and underlying scientific surveys has involved broad participation from academic and public and private sector practitioners, planners, and regulators.

The AHG program was initiated in 1999 in support of salmon recovery efforts to ensure aquatic and floodplain restoration planning and design efforts that were strategic, effective, and the best use of limited resources. The scope of the program has since broadened to include: the promotion, protection, and restoration of fully functioning marine, freshwater, and riparian ecosystems through comprehensive and effective management of activities that affect Washington's aquatic and riparian ecosystems. Guidelines developed in the AHG program employ an integrated approach to marine, freshwater, and riparian habitat protection and restoration. That is, they seek to protect and restore the structure and function of whole ecosystems by striving to consider projects in their landscape and watershed contexts. AHG PRODUCTS (available for download at

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/>)

Guideline Documents:

- Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines (2003)
- Design of Road Culverts for Fish Passage (2003)
- Fishway Design, Operation, and Evaluation (2004)
- Fish Protection Screens (2004)
- Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines (2004)

State-of-the-Knowledge White Papers (literature reviews):

- In- and Over-water Structures in Marine and Freshwater Environments
- Treated Wood Issues in Marine and Freshwater Environments
- Marine and Estuarine Shoreline Modification Issues
- Channel Design

- Ecological Issues in Floodplain and Riparian Corridors
- Dredging and Gravel Removal in Marine and Freshwater Environments
- Water Crossings (to be released fall 2004)

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AHG Website: Guidelines, white papers, upcoming training opportunities, training registration forms, and other information on the program are available on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's AHG website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/>